

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION SUB- COMMITTEE ON TAXATION ON SB 82

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ROBERT STORY JR.**, on January 17, 2003
at 8:05 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Robert Story Jr., Chairman (R)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)

Staff Present: Shirley Herrin, Committee Secretary
Lee Heiman, Legislative Staff

Others Present: Sen. Sam Kitzenberg
Doug Monger, FWP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Discussion is
paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:
Discussion on SB 82

DISCUSSION ON SB 82

SENATOR ROBERT STORY JR., stated the purpose of the meeting was
to discuss four point regarding SB 82 as follows:

- 1) Allocation of funds
- 2) Temporary or permanent levy
- 3) Non-resident vs resident
- 4) Elimination of fee for Montanans

Doug Monger stated the question of the constitutionality of the
bill, concerning waiving fees for Montana residents, was covered
by the FWP hunting and fishing license fees for non-residents.
It was noted that residents would already be paying for the parks
with the mill levy. He stated that \$600,000.00 was collected in
day-use of the parks and that 70% of the total use is from

Montana residents. **Mr. Monger** said the removal of entrance fees would double the use of the state parks which is 1.5 million visitors now.

SEN. STORY asked if the committee was okay with the fee concept, they would move on to the Allocation Issue. After a brief discussion the committee agreed that funds should be allocated to the seven Administrative Regions.

SEN. ELLIOTT inquired whether a district - like District 6 would get money commensurate with the money they pay? Will a region get more money than it collected in the area or will Western Montana subsidize Eastern Montana?

The committee discussed a distribution mechanism and determined that 50 percent of the revenue should stay in the region and 50 percent should go into a pool for distribution throughout the state. They also discussed what portion of the revenue should be for acquisition. The committee discussed at length what constituted capital improvements and maintenance. The committee decided on a long term, ten year plan.

Mr. Monger stated that 2 mills would collect \$3.4 M or \$90T per year. The committee discussed the idea of selling the mill levy to the public and determined they would have to use park maintenance to the western part of Montana and park acquisition in eastern Montana as selling points. The issue of who would promote the plan was discussed and **Mr. Monger** said the Department could not promote a mill levy. **CHAIRMAN STORY** said there will have to be a grass roots support of the levy. Points decided on:

- 1) Allocation in present Statute - per county.
- 2) Distribution mechanism - keep some in each region - create a shared pool. Bring money out of richer counties.
- 3) Ten year life of bill
- 4) Fee exempt - residents day-use

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:55 A.M.

SEN. ROBERT STORY, JR., Chairman

SHIRLEY HERRIN, Secretary

RS/SH